

elections in numbers that are a tribute to the people of Taiwan. Despite appalling efforts at intimidation by the Government of the People's Republic of China, two-thirds of the eligible voters of Taiwan participated in the elections. That is a participation rate that exceeds ours here in the United States, Mr. Speaker. Their obvious desire for democracy and their responsible and thoughtful exercise of the franchise merit our most profound respect and praise. They are the real winners in the election.

The second big winner in this election has been the friendship between the people of the United States and people of Taiwan. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the action of this House last week in strongly affirming the commitment of the American People of Taiwan in the face of the threats and intimidation they faced from the bullies of Beijing. We have made clear our commitment to the democratic process in Taiwan, and it is extremely important that this be known both by the People of Taiwan and by the Government of the mainland.

The big losers in this election, Mr. Speaker, are the bullies of Beijing—the leaders of the People's Republic of China who attempted with military maneuvers, missile firings, amphibious landings, and other similarly ruthless efforts at intimidation to affect the outcome of this election and to undermine the evolution of democracy in Taiwan. The bullies of Beijing miscalculated. They were proven wrong, and the people of Taiwan have demonstrated just how wrong they are. Democracy is stronger and more stable and more acceptable than the totalitarian and authoritarian rule of despots.

The success of democratic elections in Taiwan will have a profound impact upon the mainland. As the generational change in the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party continues in Beijing, it is clear that the free and open and democratic elections in Taiwan have dealt the party dictatorship a great blow. The example of Taiwan will continue to affect what happens on the mainland.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in this house to join me in paying tribute to President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chan, and, in particular, in paying tribute to the people of Taiwan.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, freedom-loving people all over the world join in the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the beginning of the Greek War of Independence.

On March 25, 1821, a group of heroic Greeks proved that the ancient fire of freedom and democracy—which inspired the founders of our country—had not been extinguished by over 400 years of brutal Ottoman rule.

More than 2,000 years ago, democracy was born in Greece. Political power in the hands of the people governed had never been seen before. That system of governance provided the inspiration for nations around the world.

The country that emerged from the Ottoman yoke has been a staunch ally and friend.

Greece has stood by the United States in every major international conflict this century.

Our country has benefited from an active and successful Greek-American community. The immigrants who came to our shores from Greece worked hard. Their children went on to become scholars, doctors, scientists—many individuals from that community have served our country with distinction in the Armed Forces and Government.

Soon the Olympic flame will reach the United States, where it will preside over the Olympic Games as a reminder of the Hellenic ideals that inspire athletes, philosophers, and democratic movements throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize this important date in the long struggle for freedom and democracy. Greece's victory over tyranny is a victory for democracy and freedom all over the globe.

GUN BAN REPEAL ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my continued support for the assault weapons ban passed by the Congress in 1994. Passed with the overwhelming support of national law enforcement organizations, this new law is working to reduce bloodshed and save lives.

During the late 1980's, assault weapons accounted for about 8-10 percent of all guns traced to crimes by law enforcement, even though assault weapons accounted for only about 1 percent of the guns in private hands. The number of assault weapons traced to crime in the first months of 1995 fell for the first time in recent years from the prior year's level. These impressive statistics indicate that the use of assault weapons in crime is now declining. My colleagues, this law is working.

The attempt by the Republican leadership to derail the successes of the assault weapons ban is nothing more than poorly disguised political opportunism. This is a payback—pure and simple.

But this vote should not disguise the fact that the overwhelming majority of the American public, including gun owners, wants assault weapons off our streets and out of our school yards.

When we debated this bill 2 years ago, the legislation was narrowly drawn to protect the right of all law-abiding Americans to own firearms both for hunting and other sporting purposes, as well as for their own self-defense.

Assault weapons are the weapons of choice for terrorists, mass murderers, drug dealers, gang members, drive-by shooters, and cop killers. They also continue to be used against their well-armed opponents—police officers.

For the safety of our children and those who are sworn to protect them, vote against this bill and maintain the assault weapons ban.

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT MUST ITSELF BE ABOVE REPROACH

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned today. I am very concerned about the ability of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to conduct its business in a fair and impartial manner, because of press reports that we have seen throughout this Congress expressing doubts about the committee's ability to uphold the bipartisan standard of fairness for which it is well-known.

Just yesterday I read a press report about a new breach or possible breach of impartiality, where the committee was accused of communicating with a Member who was under review. Surely, Mr. Speaker, this must not happen. It is totally unacceptable.

The group in this House that is charged and given the privilege of maintaining the ethics and the decorum of this House must not itself come under reproach.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an article by Larry Margasak on this issue.

ETHICS COMMITTEE REBUKES LAWMAKER, LETS HIM ANNOUNCE IT

(By Larry Margasak, Associated Press Writer)

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an unusual arrangement, the House ethics committee privately rebuked Rep. David M. McIntosh, R-Ind., but allowed him to announce the action in generally favorable terms.

Committee Chairman Nancy Johnson refused to publicly release the panel's letter sent to McIntosh on Tuesday. The letter criticized his distribution of materials at a hearing and religious comments made by an aide.

The letter found, however, that no rules were violated and two ethics complaints against McIntosh were dismissed.

Johnson's action broke with the usual practice of publicly releasing letters that complete ethics cases.

In this instance, the only hints of the letter's criticism came in a news release from McIntosh written with an assist from the committee.

The congressman's spokesman, Chris Jones, said, "The committee asked us to include certain things in the news release." Those items, in the last paragraph of McIntosh's seven-paragraph statement, made references to the ethics panel's concerns.

Congressional sources familiar with the letter, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was far more critical than McIntosh suggested in his news release.

The complaints were based on McIntosh's actions at a Sept. 28 hearing of a House Government Reform subcommittee he chairs and improper remarks by a subcommittee staffer about a Jewish holiday.

McIntosh displayed a poster and distributed a letter resembling the stationery of the Alliance for Justice, a coalition of civil rights and public interest lobbying groups. The document purported to list amounts of federal grants received by the group's member organizations.